

### **Amendments to the claims**

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions of the claims.

### **Listing of the claims:**

1. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes the extracellular domain of a human receptor protein H4-1BB of SEQ ID NO: 2.

2. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes an extracellular domain of a human receptor protein H4-1BB.

3. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, identified as pH4-1BB deposited at the Agricultural Research Service Culture Collection with the accession number NRRL B21131.

Claims 4-18 (canceled).

19. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

a) nucleotides of a DNA encoding a soluble human 4-1BB polypeptide comprising the extracellular domain of human 4-1BB (amino acids 1-186 of SEQ ID NO: 2) or a fragment of the extracellular domain capable of binding a 4-1BBL; and

b) nucleotides of subparagraph a) wherein said DNA additionally encodes a polypeptide that is not a human 4-1BB polypeptide and which is located C-terminal to the extracellular domain of human 4-1BB polypeptide.

20. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 comprising nucleotides 41-805 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or nucleotides 41-598 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

21. (previously presented) A recombinant expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 19 a), 19 b), or 20, operably linked to regulatory sequences suitable for expression of the nucleic acid molecule in a host cell.

22. (previously presented) A recombinant expression vector comprising a recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid segment encoding SEQ ID NO: 2 or the extracellular domain thereof operably linked to regulatory sequences suitable for expression of the nucleic acid segment in a host cell.

23. (previously presented) The recombinant expression vector of claim 22 wherein the recombinant nucleic acid molecule further comprises a nucleic acid segment that encodes a polypeptide which is neither SEQ ID NO: 2, nor the extracellular domain thereof, and which is located C-terminal to SEQ ID NO: 2 or the extracellular domain thereof.